

#### ABSTRACT

An optical disc for storage and retrieval of digital data, and a system and method for protecting the optical disc is disclosed. The optical disc has projections or embossments on one or both surfaces. When the optical disc is placed on a substantially flat surface such as a tabletop or a desktop, the projections act as pedestals that elevate the optical disc above the flat surface. The resulting gap or clearance helps prevent damage to the optical disc caused by contaminants on the flat surface or by defects in the flat surface. The projections are sized to provide adequate clearance between the disc and the flat surface, while minimizing interference between the projections and components of optical disc readers and drives. The optical disc may also include one or more depressions that are sized and configured to receive projections from another disc, which facilitates stacking of the optical discs.

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